

*TWO VIEWS OF
NAPOLEON.*

347

still remembered that there was once a country, a France, before they had helped to give it a master. To this class of men France was not confined to the narrow circle of the Imperial headquarters, but extended to the E/hine, the Alps, the Pyrenees, and the two oceans.

On the other hand, numbers of ardent and adventurous young men, full of enthusiasm for Bonaparte, had passed from the school to the camp. They were entirely opposed to Napoleon's downfall, because with his power would vanish those dreams of glory and fortune which had captivated their imaginations. These young men, who belonged to the class which I have denominated children of the Empire, were prepared to risk and commit everything to prolong the political life of their Emperor.

The distinction I have drawn between what may be called the men of France and the men of the Empire was not confined to the army, but was equally marked among the high civil functionaries of the State.¹ The old Eepublicans could not possibly regard Napoleon with the same eyes as those whose elevation dated only from Napoleon; and the members of assemblies anterior to the 18th Brumaire could not entertain the same ideas as those whose notions of national franchises and public rights were derived from their seats as auditors in the Council of State. I know not whether this distinction between the men of two different periods has been before pointed out, but it serves to explain the conduct of many persons of elevated rank during the events of 1814. With regard to myself, convinced as I was of the certainty of Napoleon's fall, I conceived that the first duty of every citizen was claimed by his country; and although I may incur censure, I candidly avow that Napoleon's treatment of me during the last four years of his power was not without some

¹ For a good description of a specimen of this class of men see Bèugnot (vol. ii. pp. 27-38), where he pictures one of the conventionalists, Jean Bon St. Andre', the Preset of Mayence, disliking the frippery and despotism of the Empire, not afraid in the very presence of the Emperor to dwell on the temptation to throw him into the Rhine, and prophesying that Napoleon would bring France to disaster, but himself serving France faithfully, and dying from

disease contracted in succoring the wounded, while others were dreaming of what they might gain from betraying their country.